

# OVERHEATED PIPES CAUSE FIRE LOSS

Alexandria Asked to Send Aid in Saving Residence of Joseph M. Peake at Braddock, Virginia.

WASHINGTON TIMES BUREAU, ALEXANDRIA, VA., JAN. 14.—Several hundred dollars' damage was done by fire, which started shortly after 10 o'clock this morning in the residence of Joseph M. Peake, at Braddock, two miles north of Alexandria. Starting from overheated steam pipes in the cellar, the flames burst through the roof of the house, organizing themselves into volunteer fire fighters, neighbors came to Mr. Peake's assistance. Fearing for a time that the flames would get beyond their control, a call was sent to Mayor F. J. Paff for aid, who sent the Relief hook and ladder truck to the scene. At the time of the truck's arrival, however, the fire was under control, and the Alexandria firemen did not aid. The loss is covered by insurance.

The lowest temperature in many years was reached here this morning, when at 6 o'clock, the mercury dropped to 10 degrees below zero. Even this mark was exceeded in the neighborhood of Shuters Hill, just outside the city, by several degrees. The police report a quiet Saturday night, not a single arrest being made.

Members of the Bar Association for the Sixteenth Judicial circuit, comprising the counties of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Prince William, held their annual banquet at Hotel Rammel yesterday afternoon. C. Vernon Ford, of Fairfax county, acted as toastmaster, and addresses were made by Judge J. H. Clements, Judge C. E. Nicol, Judge J. B. T. Thornton, Judge J. K. M. Norton, R. Walton Moore, John H. Johnson, Crandall Mackey, George H. Rucker, J. Randall Caton, James R. Caton, Harry B. Caton, Morris Wampler, John R. Barbour, F. W. Richardson, R. S. Barrett, and Alexandria J. Wedderburn. At the business meeting held prior to

## Zoo Thermometer Touched 21 Below At an Early Hour

Twenty-one and a half degrees below zero is how cold it was at the Zoo this morning at 5:45 o'clock, according to the official thermometer on the reservation. This placed the Zoological grounds in the lead as being the coldest spot in Washington at that time. Not since the disastrous blizzard of February, 1899, when the entire country was in the clutches of a record-breaking blizzard, has the mercury been so low at that place.

At midnight last night, when hundreds of other thermometers did not register lower than 6 and 8 degrees below zero, the mercury needle at the Zoo quietly slipped 16 degrees under that point.

At 11:30 o'clock this morning it was 13 degrees below zero at the Zoo. Owing to the high altitude of the park and the fact that it is isolated from anything which might furnish some degree of heat, the cold, perhaps, is more noticeable there than elsewhere in the District.

The contractor who supplies the Zoo with fuel is the happiest man in Washington today. The furnaces in the animal houses have performed their duty well. Firemen and keepers have worked valiantly to keep the cages and housed animals from suffering, and they have succeeded. In the lion house everything is snug and warm.

The seals and polar bears are beginning to take new leases on life. Not for thirteen years have they seen weather and temperature that has looked so much like that they left back home. Superintendent Baker said he didn't know what kind of polar bears they have in New York if it has been found necessary to put them in the steam-heated section of the Bronx Zoo during the present cold spell.

"The bears at the Zoo," he said, "are the happiest of the lot. They have been paddling about over the cracked ice all morning."

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## MERCURY AT 13 BELOW; SLIGHT RELIEF IN SIGHT

Coldest Day in Capital, Save One, Since Bureau Was Established.

(Continued from First Page.)

cases known to them personally, deciding to allow the newly recruited volunteers go to the aid of their families.

At a business meeting of the Relief Hook and Ladder Company, the following officers were elected: John H. Trimyer, president; F. C. Spinks, first vice president; A. E. Smoot, second vice president; John Wadley, recording secretary; Frank Senn, secretary; E. Steuart Smith, treasurer; R. M. Latham, captain; Charles F. De Moll, first lieutenant; E. C. Wildt, second lieutenant.

Announcement is made of the withdrawal of Maurice Wampler from the firm of Moncreur, Wampler & Goth, attorneys, of Alexandria county.

Officers for the ensuing year will be elected at tomorrow night's meeting of M. D. Corps Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans. Arrangements also will be made for attending the banquet of R. E. Lee Camp of Confederate Veterans, to be held January 19, the anniversary of Lee's birthday.

Rosier C. Carter and Miss Julia A. McCuen were married last night by the Rev. W. F. Watson in the parsonage of the First Baptist Church.

Holy communion was taken by members of the local branch of the Holy Name Society at the 7 o'clock mass of St. Mary's Catholic Church this morning.

A meeting of the members of "The Men and Religion Forward Movement" was held in the parish hall of Christ E. Church this afternoon, at which arrangements were made for the furtherance of the work of the movement in this city.

At the meetings of Fitzgerald Council, Knights of Columbus, to be held next Wednesday evening, the recently elected officers will be installed.

## Freakish Weather In New York City Causes Suffering

NEW YORK, Jan. 14.—Freak weather, dropping early this morning to 1 degree above zero and fluctuating remarkably between 3 and 7 o'clock caused intense suffering in New York City. At the Weather Bureau the forecasters were not ready to promise that the warmer mild tempering wave was due here, but cheering signs of temperature in several Central States, where the mercury had sunk to great distances below zero, gave hope for this city.

The lowest temperature recorded since midnight was at 4:30 o'clock, when the mercury reached 1 degree above. As it had been 12 above at 4 o'clock, this marked a drop of 11 degrees in forty-five minutes. The rebound was equally freaky, going up to 11 degrees above within seventy-five minutes, and then within an hour dropping back to 2 degrees above zero at 7 o'clock.

After 8 o'clock the mercury seemed to rise gradually with the sun. The wind, too, had dropped, so that the suffering was not intense during the low vitality hours before the dawn. The bureau recorded that the wind at 9 o'clock was twelve miles an hour, and was slackening.

Yesterday was the coldest day New York has experienced since 1904. The lowest mark touched by the thermometer was 3 below zero.

## Denver Mayor Buys Large Newspaper

DENVER, Jan. 14.—Mayor R. W. Speer, who retires from office June 1, will become a newspaper publisher. The mayor has bought the Denver Times, an evening and Sunday morning newspaper. The Times will be independent, politically, and will devote its energies to upbuilding the State. The purchase of the paper is regarded as meaning that Speer will enter the lists for the United States Senate next fall.

## All Trains Delayed by Intense Cold; Dealers Here Can't Get Goods

Freight and express traffic is tied up throughout the United States. Not only are the waterways of the country closed by ice, but the railways are

# SIX ALARMS KEEP THE FIREMEN BUSY

These Were Sounded in Four Hours and a Half Period. Fortunately All Were Small Blazes and Little Damage Resulted.

Six fire alarms within four and a half hours and one second, by exact calculation of Fire Chief Frank Wagner, this morning called out eight downtown engines, three trucks, a water tower, and two fuel wagons. Three uptown engines and a truck also went out within this period. This does not include a second alarm for one of these fires, and another alarm sounded just after 11 o'clock.

Fortunately, all the fire were small and easy to cope with, or there would have been some genuine suffering among Washington's fire-fighting men on this coldest day in thirteen years. As it was, there were some frosted fingers and ears, and considerable difficulty and discomfort, but not a single case of exhaustion was reported.

## The First Call.

The first call came from the cellar under the Barber & Ross hardware store at Eleventh and streets, where inflammable substance thrown aside had set fire to kindling wood. The damage was a few dollars only, but because of the central location of the building two alarms were turned in, and half a dozen engines had connected their hoses ready for a fight with a full sized fire. This occurred shortly after 5 o'clock when the thermometer registered 13 degrees below zero. When the plugs were turned on the water trickled out, and quick work was required to keep it from freezing before attachments could be made. The stiff hose, icy and heavy, caused the firemen a sore time.

There was a lull until 8 o'clock, when finding great difficulty in keeping traffic open, passenger trains are running late as a general rule, and freight and express is being moved spasmodically.

Washington's fire-fighting men are beginning to feel the effects of this traffic tie-up. Merchandise ordered from distant points is not coming in. Old railway men say the weather is the worst that has ever visited the country as a whole. The intense cold makes it difficult to keep up the proper steam pressure on fast train locomotives, and precludes the rapid moving of freight. This condition is being experienced throughout the United States from Maine to California, and as far south as the Panhandle of Texas, where the worst weather on record is being experienced.

Mail trains are running from fifteen minutes to three days late. Trains bound for Washington from the far South are running fairly well on schedule. But North, East, and West conditions are much worse. In the Pacific Northwest in the Rocky mountain region traffic is not moving at all in some sections. The mails due in Seattle on the tenth of the month have not yet arrived, according to wire dispatches to railway mail headquarters.

## Slight Relief Comes To Chicago, But New Storm Is on Way

CHICAGO, Ill., Jan. 14.—Relief from the cold wave that for thirteen days has held Chicago in its icy grip came this morning with an appreciable rise in temperature and an absence of the cutting northwest wind. The milder temperatures extend through the western part of the United States and up into Canada.

But by tonight the weather prognosticator predicts a new blast from the Northwest will strike Chicago and again cause the mercury to sink to the zero mark. It will be a bit of the weather prophet's words, with little semblance to the champion just departed. The deficiency of temperature for the forecast day beginning with the advent of the storm king on January 1 was 36 degrees, or nearly one-fourth as much as the 126 degrees above normal record during 1911. Chicago's record-breaking hot year.

The seventy-eight persons on board the two ice-locked steamers, Kansas and Indiana, began the fourth day of their imprisonment in the midst of

## Railroad Telegraphers Get Increase in Pay

Telegraph operators on the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad are to receive an increased wage, as a result of the arbitration between the men and the road, before Commissioner of Labor Neil and Judge Martin A. Knapp. The telegraphers asked for a 20 per cent raise in pay, but this was not allowed. The amount of the increase was not made public, but it is believed to be 10 per cent.

## Geographic Society Ends Successful Year

The most successful year of its history has just been completed by the National Geographic Society, according to the annual report made public today by Secretary O. P. Austin. The total membership of the organization is now 105,750. More than 30,000 new names were added to the membership roll in 1911. The society also is in a prosperous financial condition, John Joy Edson, its treasurer, reported.

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